# South Dakota Women's Prison Pierre, South Dakota

The South Dakota Women's Prison is located in the Solem Public Safety Center in Pierre, South Dakota.

In 1995, legislation was introduced that authorized the construction of a new prison for women. Before that time, female inmates were housed at the Spring-field State Prison.

Dwane Russell is the Warden of the South Dakota Women's Prison.

#### **Facility**

The Solem Public Safety Center is a unique facility that houses not only the South Dakota Women's Prison, but also the Department of Corrections central office, the Pierre Police Department, Hughes County Sheriff's Office, a state Highway Patrol station and the office of state Division of Criminal Investigation agents.

The South Dakota Women's Prison portion of the facility constitutes the majority of the 78,000 square foot building.





Outside and inside the Parents and Children Together House at the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre.

The South Dakota Women's Prison opened and was dedicated on October 23, 1997. A trusty unit opened in 2001 with the capacity for 96 beds.

The facility also includes a six-bedroom house used for the Parents And Children Together (P.A.C.T.) program. The primary goal of the P.A.C.T. program is to enable the incarcerated mother to have her minor children with her in prison for a weekend visit once each month, in addition to the regular visiting hours.

The P.A.C.T. visits are intended to alleviate some of the familial stress associated with the mother's incarceration, create a better understanding of the parent role, and provide the opportunity of the inmate mother to maintain some direct responsibility for the care of her children.

#### **Assignments**

Inmates are assigned to housing units within the Women's Prison according to criteria designed to rate the inmate's current needs, past record, present sentence and institutional behavior.



Inside a classroom at the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre.

### **Inmate Employment**

Inmate employment within the Women's Prison fall into two basic categories: institutional support and prison industry. Institutional support includes those employed in food service, as clerks for various departments, as cell orderlies and those working in the DOC central office.

Prison Industry at the Women's Prison includes Data Entry for government agencies.

Inmates also work outside the walls for various community organizations and on approved work release assignments.

## Programs

Inmates are offered literacy, Adult Basic Education and General Educational Development (GED) classes. Treatment is offered for chemical dependency and for sex offenders.

**Statistics:** 

Population as of January 31, 2005 Women's Prison 278